



THE RIPPLE EFFECT

OCTOBER 2025

A Monthly Update Highlighting One Committee's Progress

**EXPLORING EVERY IMPACT
EMPOWERING EVERY VOICE
ENSURING A HEALTHIER HIGGINS LAKE**

HOH-lake.org or HOHL@gerrishtownship.org

AT A GLANCE

- Science Committee is charged with evaluating current and historical studies that have been completed on Higgins Lake.
- Visit HOH-lake.org for details on all committee work.

SCIENCE COMMITTEE



The Science Committee monitors and evaluates the health of the Higgins Lake. They oversee the collection and analysis of water quality data, interpret findings, and work with experts, agencies, and the community to ensure decisions are based on sound science and open communication.

Scientific Research Database

- **Over 40 studies** on Higgins Lake's health are now part of a central, searchable database.
- Each study has been **reviewed and tagged with keywords** to make information easy to find.
- **Research from other lakes** is being added to provide valuable comparisons and broader insights.
- The **database continues to grow**, offering an expanding resource for understanding and protecting Higgins Lake.

What's Next



8 Categories of Study and Evaluation Have Been Identified:

- **Near Shore Water Quality** – monitoring conditions close to the shoreline.
- **Invasive Species** – tracking and managing invasive species

- **Groundwater and Drinking Water Contamination** – assessing potential risks to wells and drinking water.
- **Watershed Quality** – studying how land use and runoff affect the lake's health.
- **Changing Fisheries** – understanding shifts in fish populations and habitats.
- **Deep Water Quality** – examining oxygen levels, temperature, and nutrient balance in deeper waters.
- **Recreational Activities** – evaluating the impact of boating, swimming, and other lake uses.
- **Non-nutrient Contaminants** – monitoring emerging pollutants such as PFAS and pharmaceuticals.

Subcommittees have been formed to focus on each category and will follow a **common workflow**:

- Gather relevant data
- Evaluate findings for accuracy and consistency
- Analyze results to identify trends and issues
- Draw conclusions and **draft reports** with recommendations

Next Steering Committee meeting is Tuesday, October 21st, 7 pm at Gerrish Township
Join us to learn more about the progress being made!